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have endeavored, as we ever shall, to provide food for as great a variety of tastes as possible.

We propose no essential change ; but, in the execution of our plan, we shall hope to enrich and enliven our pages by giving greater prominence to topics that have hitherto been either omitted or imperfectly discussed. We shall expect first, *more correspondence*, both domestic and foreign ; next, *a fuller account of what is done in this cause*, at home and abroad ; and finally, *a special discussion of the great practical points*, the hinges on which the whole cause turns before the public. We are engaged in plans for bringing the cause simultaneously before most of our rulers, and the entire mass of our people through the land ; and, if we succeed in either part of this project, we shall need to bring and keep before the public eye, the cardinal points of our cause. Here is a great specific work, sufficient to task the utmost energies of our friends for years ; and we earnestly solicit their co-operation, first in giving the Advocate a far wider circulation, and then in rendering us the pecuniary and personal aid indispensable to success.

SIEGE OF GERONA.

FROM THE LIFE OF LORD WELLINGTON.

During the autumn of this year, the most heroic efforts were made by the Spaniards, in defence of Gerona, against the French under St. Cyr. Gerona is a city of Catalonia ; it is situate on the little river Onar, near to the spot where it falls into the Ter. It is of great antiquity (supposed to be the Gerrenda of the Romans,) and had been celebrated for more than one remarkable siege previous to the French investing it in this year. The city was protected by four forts upon the high ground above it ; its principal defence was the citadel which is called the *Monjuic*, which commanded it from an eminence about sixty fathoms distant. This was a square fort 240 yards in length on each side, with four bastions, and for out-works had the four towers of Saints Luis, Narcis, Daniel, and Juan. The garrison consisted of 3,400, commanded by Mariano Alvarez, and the inhabitants were in high spirits from their having twice driven back the assailants. Alvarez, who had no reasonable expectation of relief from without, gave every encouragement to the feelings of the citizens to defend their town to the last extremity. For this purpose he formed them into eight companies of 100 men each ; maids and matrons also enrolled themselves in an association which they termed the company of St. Barbara, to perform whatever lay in their power, as their countrymen had done at Saragossa. Knowing full well, too, the influence which superstition has over the minds of a bigoted population, he encouraged the ceremony of investing St. Narcis (the patron saint of the Geronans) with the insignia of generalissimo of all the Spanish forces by sea and land. This was done with great pomp by the clergy, municipality, &c., on the following Sunday ; the shrine of the saint in the church of St. Felix was opened, and a general's staff, sword and belt, all richly ornamented, were deposited by the relics of the chosen commander ! This mummary created the most unbounded joy, and the excitement to the Spaniards was such, that it seemed as if "the glory of the Lord had descended and filled the church, manifesting that their devotion was approved and blessed of Heaven !"

A proclamation was also issued by Alvarez, forbidding all persons from speaking of capitulation, on pain of immediate death, without exception of class, rank, or condition, and this was received both by the garrison and the people with acclamation. The city was closely invested by 18,000 French, under the immediate command of General Verdier, on the 6th of May, on

the heights of Basa Roca, where they erected a battery of eleven mortars, and began to form their first line of circumvallation, and also works against the Monjuic; the garrison being too weak to impede them. A flag of truce was indeed sent; but the only reply to it was, that "the Geronans would hold no communication with the French, but at the cannon's mouth." Don Mariano Montarro, who commanded at the post, instantly descended amid a shower of balls, and replanted the flag upon the walls!

A breach was now made, wide enough for forty men abreast, and the fire of the garrison had ceased; their ammunition running short, and the enemy being partly protected by the trenches, the Spaniards reserved their fire. For three days the enemy continued to fire upon the breach; but about three o'clock on the morning of the 8th, under cover of a most tremendous bombardment, 6,000 men again assaulted it. A mortar which lay masked among the ruins of the ravelin, and which discharged 500 musket balls at every shot, was played full upon the enemy by Don Juan Candy, and did immense execution.

Three times during that day the assault was repeated with the utmost resolution by the assailants; but all their efforts were unavailing, and they were obliged to retire with the loss of 1,600 men killed. But the effect of that dreadful attack was severely felt by the Geronans. The tower of St. Juan, which stood near the west curtain of the castle, was blown up, and only twenty-three of its brave little garrison were extricated alive amid the incessant fire of the enemy upon this devoted spot.

The company of St. Barbara were every where to be seen, covered with blood, under the burning heat of a July sun. Those courageous women, through an incessant fire of the batteries and the musketry, carried water and wine to the soldiers, and bore back the wounded. Every day produced acts of heroism equally conspicuous, and the enemy for some short time only stationed his sharp-shooters thickly in the trenches; and so fatal was the aim of these marksmen, that for any of the garrison to be seen only for a moment was certain death; and although the sentinels were changed every half hour, nine were killed in one day, at one post, and scarcely a soldier escaped being hit; till it became possible to observe what the enemy was about, only by some one of the fosse lifting up his head, and taking a momentary glance.

Early in August the besiegers had pushed their parallels to the very edge of the fosse; but here they were impeded by the stony nature of the soil, so that some little delay occurred to bring earth from a distance. An attempt to throw supplies into the city, on the side of Castellar de la Silva, was at this time made, but failed, and the convoy fell into the hands of the French, and scarcely 500 men out of 1,500 escaped.

Now it was that the main attacks of the besiegers were directed against the ravelin, which was now the chief defence of Monjuic. Attempts were repeated, night after night, to storm it, but in vain. At last the enemy began to mine it; yet as the breast-work was almost wholly of earth, the explosion did no injury; but still the gate was exposed, and rendered the communication between the castle and the ravelin extremely difficult. A sally was made against a battery which the French had planted; a priest led the attack upon it; he received a ball in the thigh, and fell; the enemy pressed on to kill him; one of their officers at the hazard of his own life protected him, and in this humane act was slain by the Spaniards, who mistook his object in the melee.

About the end of August several breaches were made by the enemy's batteries at Monjuic, and every hour a fresh assault was to be expected; and the governor issued his general orders, that if any of the defenders flinched from the breach when it was attacked, they should be considered as enemies, and fired upon. The garrison was now greatly reduced; the hospitals were no longer able to contain the numbers who required admission; the contagion had increased, and become more violent; the magazines

were exhausted of all their provisions, except wheat and a little flour; so that famine was beginning to be severely felt.

On the 19th of September, another general assault was made at several points, by 2,000 men, from the Montjuic and St. Daniel, St. Miguel, and from the woods of Palau. Although this attack was made with the utmost expedition, still the Geronans were at their posts fully prepared to meet it. "Frequently," says an able writer, "such was the press of the conflict, and such the passion which inspired them, that impatient of the time required for reloading their muskets, the defendants caught up stones from the breach, and brained their enemies with these readier weapons! Four times the assault was repeated in the course of two hours, and at every point the enemy were beaten off. Alvarez, during the whole assault, hastened from post to post wherever there was most need of his presence, providing every thing, directing all, and encouraging all; he had prepared cressets to light up the walls and breaches in case the enemy should persist in their attempt after darkness closed but they withdrew long before night set in, hastily and in disorder, leaving 800 of their best men slain.

Every day and every hour added to the distress of the besieged. Their flour was exhausted. Wheat they had still in store; but men are so much the slaves of habit, that it was considered as one great evil of the siege that they had no means of grinding it. Two horse-mills which had been erected, were of such clumsy construction, that they did not perform half the needful work; and the Geronans, rather than prepare the unground corn in any way to which they had not been accustomed, submitted to the labor of grinding it in the shell of a bomb with a cannon ball. For want of other animal food, mules and horses were slaughtered for the hospital and the shambles; a list was made of all in the city, and they were taken by lot. Fuel was exceedingly scarce; yet the heaps which were placed in cressets at the corners of the principal streets, to illumine them in case of danger, remained untouched, and not a billet was taken from them during the siege! The summer fever became more prevalent; the bodies of the sufferers were frequently covered with a minute eruption, which was usually a fatal symptom; fluxes also began to prevail.

The besieged were now looking anxiously for Blake with his army, to make another effort to relieve them; this was done indeed, but so partially, that it was rather an injury than a benefit. O'Donnell again succeeded in forcing through the French lines with 1,000 men; but he supplied the city only with 160 laden beasts, so that the presence of his men increased instead of lessening the scarcity of provisions in the city; consequently he was obliged to cut his way back sword in hand (for they could not fire a gun for fear of alarming the enemy's other divisions), and got safely to St. Colona with scarcely any loss. St. Cyr was now superseded, and Augereau took charge of the besiegers. His first act was to take possession of Hostalrich, at which place were Blake's magazines; this was done after a most gallant resistance, and thus the last hope was cut off of relief for Gerona. The French now redoubled their vigilance; they drew their lines closer to the city, stretched cords with bells along the interspaces, and kept watch-dogs at all the posts. The bombardment was continued, and always with greater violence during the night than during the day, in the hope of exhausting the Geronans by depriving them of sleep.

Hitherto the few mules and horses which remained unslaughtered, had been led out to feed near the walls of St. Francisco de Paula, and of the burial ground. This was now prevented by the batteries of Paula and Montelivi, and by the French advanced posts; and these wretched animals, being thus deprived of their only food, gnawed the hair from each other's manes and tails, before they were led to the shambles. The stores also from which the citizens had supplied the failure of the magazines, were exhausted; it became necessary to set a guard over the ovens, and the food for the hospitals was sometimes seized upon the way by the famishing

1845.]

Siege of Gerona.

populace. The enemy tried to tempt the garrison to desert, by calling out to them to come and eat, and holding out provisions. A few were indeed tempted; they were received with embraces, and fed in sight of the walls! During the whole siege ten only of the garrison deserted—these were officers, and two of noble birth, who, failing to persuade the governor to capitulate, took this disgraceful mode of revenge.

At length human nature could endure no more! the chief surgeon presented to Alvarez a report of the state of the city—he took it with this observation, “This paper, then, will perhaps inform posterity of our sufferings, if there should be none left to recount them.” The report was a fearful one. It stated that there did not “remain a single building in Gerona which had not been injured by the bombardment; not a house was habitable; the people slept in cellars, and vaults, and holes amid the ruins; and it had not unfrequently happened that the wounded were killed in the hospitals by the enemy’s fire. The streets were broken up; so that the rain-water and the sewers stagnated there, and the pestilential vapors which arose were rendered more noxious by the dead bodies which lay rotting amid the ruins! The siege had now endured seven months; scarcely a woman had become pregnant during that time; the very dogs, before hunger had consumed them, had ceased to follow after kind—they did not even fawn upon their masters; the almost incessant thunder of artillery seemed to make them sensible of the state of the city, and the unnatural atmosphere affected them as well as human kind. It affected vegetation; in the gardens within the walls the fruits withered, and scarcely any vegetable could be raised. Within the last three days above 500 of the garrison had died in the hospitals; a dysentery was raging and spreading; the sick were lying upon the ground without beds, almost without food; and there was scarcely fuel to dress the little wheat that remained, and the few horses which were yet unconsumed.

THE SEVEN YEARS WAR.—This war raged from 1756 to 1763, and nearly all the European powers were engaged in it. It originated in a dispute between England and France, relating to the Canadas; the French encroached on a tract of country claimed by the English, in the wilderness, uncultivated, and uninhabited, excepting by savages; and this war has often been called “a strife about so many acres of snow.” The miseries which it occasioned in the interior of Europe, have been seldom equalled; and at length the Grand Signior invited the European Ministers at his court to hold a conference, and after stating to them the great abhorrence he felt at the bloody war thus raging between so many Christian nations, offered his mediation for effecting a general peace. The offer of the Mohammedan peace-maker was not accepted, but rejected with pride and scorn, and hostilities were continued until poverty brought peace.

This war is represented by historians, as one of the most successful that England was ever engaged in. One hundred ships of war were taken from the enemy or destroyed, and nearly sixty millions of dollars acquired in prize money; but these glorious successes cost the nation 250,000 human beings, and about \$600,000,000! The slaughter of the opponents and allies of Great Britain in this dreadful contest, was little less than 800,000 men!

FRANCE AND ALGERIA—*Paying rather dear for the whistle.*—France, says the London *Times*, maintains an army of upwards of 100,000 men, at the cost of more than 80,000,000 francs per annum, for the protection of about 6000 French colonists in Algeria; (which colonists do not pay a single franc back into the treasury!) and for these 6000 colonists, already some 50,000 soldiers have miserably perished since the first occupation—and all this with increasing sacrifices of life and treasure.

THOSE WHO MAKE WAR, SHOULD DO THE FIGHTING.—Let rulers who crow so bravely, each on his own dunghill, meet in single combat; and if one kills the other, let the question be settled accordingly. If both are killed, let the next in authority take up the weapons, until there is only one survivor; and let his country take the land in dispute.

Does this mode of settling the difficulty appear barbarous to the reader? But is it not as much better than war as the number engaged in the deadly conflict is less? What is war but a duel on a great scale? or according to Jefferson, “the unprofitable contest of seeing who will do the other the most harm;” which multiplies, instead of redressing injuries.

There is another thing in which war is more barbarous than dueling, which is, that in a duel the principals fight out their own quarrels; but in war, they hire others to kill one another, who know little and care less about the cause of the quarrel. The object of the common soldier is pay and plunder, with the license to trample on all God’s laws with impunity. With the officer, the object is the exercise of arbitrary power, and the praise of the vulgar.

When Alfred the Great instituted the ordeal of battle, it was a great advance on the barbarous manners of the age, and much better than those deadly feuds, in which the parties involved not only themselves, but all their retainers. Then, why not adopt a plan which, barbarous and unchristian as it is, is not so bad as war?

AMERICAN INDEBTEDNESS TO ENGLAND.—It appears, from a tabular statement in a London paper, that different States of our Union owe for money borrowed in Great Britain alone, no less than \$181,000,000!—Well, there is some consolation even in this; for it forms in truth a pledge of peace between the two countries. Canning once said, that England was bound under bonds of eight hundred millions sterling, nearly \$4,000,000,000, to keep the peace of Europe; and on this principle every international debt is a bond of peace among nations. It is one of the links that intertwine their interests; and such interlinking of any interests, personal or pecuniary, religious or political, will increase their aversion to war.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATIONS.

1. *The Moral Law of Nations.* By DANIEL GARDNER Esq., *Counsellor at Law.* Troy, N. Y., 1814. Saxton & Pierce, Boston.

This book, though obviously written without any aid or impulse from peace societies, is still a direct and very valuable contribution to our cause. It is throughout an incidental but decisive argument for peace as alike the duty and the policy of nations. It is an able treatise, rich in thought, correct in its main principles, clear and forcible in style, and well worthy of a place in the library and the mind of every American. We commend it especially to the friends of peace.

Mr. Gardner’s aim is to vindicate the *American* system of international policy, “to establish on a firm foundation the freedom of the seas, to render wars unprofitable by giving absolute immunity to private property at sea as well as on land, to secure to neutral ships free trade, and to make a state of hostilities inconsistent with the interest of warring nations. Our aim is to prove that the interest and duty of states and empires demand in all international transactions the observance of peace, justice and mercy. Our code of public law rests upon the eternal and immutable principles of right reason, sanctioned by the King of kings.”